

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

L-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /074 R

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EUR/RPM:AKEISWETTER

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P R 052050Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 243492

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT:MBFR: UK POSITION ON SOVIET FIRST STEP

REF: MBFR VIENNA 384

1. BRITISH EMBASSY REP URGED US TO AGREE TO DELETION
CRITICISM SOVIET FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL IN PLENARY
PRESENTATION NOV. 7, OR AGREE TO BRIEF CRITICISM LABELED AS
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT.

2. WE HAVE INFORMED BRITISH HERE THAT WE BELIEVE IT
IMPORTANT ALLIED SPOKESMAN MAKE PLANNED CRITIQUE OF SOVIET
PROPOSAL AT NOV. 7 PLENARY. WE USED ARGUMENTS OUTLINED
REFTEL, POINTING OUT PLANNED CRITIQUE ACKNOWLEDGED POSITIVE
AS WELL AS NEGATIVE ASPECTS. WE EMPHASIZED SOVIETS COULD
MISINTERPRET ALLIED REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL IF WE DID NOT
MAKE RESPONSE AS PLANNED AND AS ALREADY GIVEN IN INFORMAL
SESSIONS. WE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO UNDESIRABILITY OF

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ANY INDICATION ALLIES DO NOT HAVE FULLY AGREED POSITION ON

SOVIET PROPOSAL.

3. IN FURTHER CONVERSATION, BRITISH EMB REP SAID FCO WANTED TO AVOID IDEA WE WERE DISMISSING PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND OR THAT THIS WAS DEFINITIVE OR FINAL WESTERN STATEMENT ON EASTERN PROPOSAL. WE POINTED OUT PROPOSAL WAS IN THE MAIN NOT NEW, THAT WEST HAD ALREADY GIVEN ITS RESPONSE

IN THREE INFORMALS, AND PLENARY PRESENTATION NOV. 7 WOULD REITERATE POINTS ALREADY MADE. BRITISH EMB REP SAID THEY REGARDED LANGUAGE AS SOMEWHAT POLEMICAL AND THEY BELIEVED STATEMENT COULD BE SHORTENED FROM ITS PRESENT LENGTH (28 PARAGRAPHS). WE SAID WE DID NOT HAVE TEXT AND THEREFORE HAD NO COMMENT ON DRAFTING SUGGESTIONS.

4. BRITISH SAID THEIR EMBASSY IN BONN REPORTED GERMANS SOMEWHAT RECEPTIVE TO IDEA STATEMENT COULD BE LESS DEFINITIVE AND SHORTER. INGERSOLL

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